



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon Department of Emergency Management

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May 10, 2023

Senator Janeen Sollman, Co-Chair
Representative Paul Evans, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Public Safety
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

This letter is in response to questions raised to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (ODEM) during the May 9, 2023, hearing of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means, Subcommittee on Public Safety.

Question: Does the agency provide local jurisdictions assistance with the local hazard analysis? Are the analysis files housed within the agency?

Yes, the agency provides technical assistance to local jurisdictions with their hazard mitigation plans. Oregon's [Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan \(NHMP\), Volume 1](#) of [ODEM's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan](#), details regional risk assessments and is updated every five years. The current NHMP was developed for ODEM by the Department of Land Conservation and Development. Additionally, local jurisdictions that participate in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), are required to provide ODEM with a risk analysis. The risk analysis files are kept by ODEM and used when updating the Oregon NHMP.

ODEM ensures the use of materials such as planning, training, and exercise best practices and templates are made available to all jurisdictions. Examples of this include the Statewide emergency operations planning template, standardized yet configurable training course and support materials, and materials needed to support local, county, tribal, and state partners exercise efforts.

Question: What is the reason for six regions? Is there alignment with other agency's regions?

The current regional structure can be traced as far back as 2005. The current regions were established to provide additional focus to the coastal and rural areas, with a continual connection and alignment with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) in the valley and a deviation on the eastern side of the state. There is not alignment with other agency regions. The agency agrees that alignment with other state agencies' regional boundaries warrants additional conversation.

Our regional coordinators work very closely with regional teams at the Oregon Department of Transportation, the State Fire Marshall, OHA, the Department of Human Services, etc. to ensure collective awareness and streamlined support of our local partners.

Thank you for the questions. Please feel free to contact me if any further clarification is needed; I can be reached at matt.l.garrett@oem.oregon.gov or 503-378-3933.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Garrett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew L. Garrett
Interim Director